



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



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MINUTES

California-Mexico Border Relations Council

February 20, 2008 | 3:00-5:00PM

Room 2540, California EPA Headquarters Conference Room

1001 I Street, 25th Floor

Sacramento, California 95814

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by Chairwoman Adams

I. Introductions

::: The following council members were present:

Secretary Linda Adams, Cal/EPA (Chairwoman of Council)

Secretary Kim Belshe was represented by Undersecretary Ann Boynton

Secretary A.G. Kawamura, CDFA

Secretary Mike Chrisman, Resources

Director Henry Renteria, OES

Secretary Dale Bonner was represented by Jennifer Grutzius, BT&H

A representative from Speaker Nunez's office

Cal/EPA & Other Agency Staff

II. Procedural Matters

::: The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting act processes and procedures were discussed and all required public documents were made available throughout the meeting.

III. Background

- i. Overview of the council and discussion of primary objectives.

::: The council's objectives were presented by Secretary Linda Adams and a suggestion was made that the meetings occur quarterly.

IV. Mission/Vision

- i. Discussion of the development of a mission and vision statement.

::: A draft copy of the mission and vision of the council was distributed by Secretary Linda Adams for review. All members were instructed to review

the statement, as a final adoption would be made at the council's next meeting.

V. Border Programs & Projects

i. Discussion of existing programs and projects.

::: An overview of existing agency projects related to the border was discussed. It was agreed that by the next meeting, a detailed, explanatory summary would be provided by each member agency/department.

Highlights included:

- ***Cal/EPA: Tire Removal Program***
- ***CHHS: Health Monitoring, Migrant Health, Early Prevention Programs***
- ***CDFA: Agricultural Protection, Agriculture/Fruit Import Improvements***
- ***Resources: Cross-Border Protection Programs***
- ***OES: International Emergency Management Compact, Integrated Training Catalog, Bio-Watch Monitoring System***
- ***BT&H: Additional Border Crossings Needed, Development of Public-Private Partnerships***

ii. Discussion about opportunities for coordination.

::: All council members were interested in further discussion after this inaugural meeting regarding finding key coordination channels through which interagency cooperation can take place. The council was instructed to research such opportunities and consult the manual of border programs. The report in question may be found here:

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/04/11/04-011.pdf>

VI. Emergency Services & Operations

i. Discussion regarding the coordination of cross-border responses in the event of emergencies.

::: There was a discussion and presentation by Director Renteria regarding emergency response programs and instances where California emergency equipment was donated to Mexican authorities. He was open, as was the council, to further collaboration with Mexican authorities for cross-border collaboration in the event of emergencies. The primary problem was getting equipment across the border and this was an issue that was to be looked at for the next meeting.

VII. Managing Shared Ecosystems

i. Discussion regarding the preservation of endemic species on the border.

::: The Resources agency is taking steps, in cooperation with the State Parks and the Fish & Game division to work on the issue of environmental protection priorities along border region.

VIII. Goods Movement

- i. Review of statewide efforts and approaches to goods movement across the border.

::: There was a focus on the Otay Mesa East Project and other BT&H divisions which focus on addressing multiple issues at the Port of Entry.

- ii. Discussion regarding the NAFTA agreement as it relates to truck emissions and enforcement across the border.

::: A goal of BT&H is to follow the US Border Master Plan and look at reducing wait time at the border by 50% by 2013. Additionally, the ARB will conduct workshops on AB 1009 compliance over the next several months.

IX. Topics for future meetings, including programs and projects.

::: The next meeting was proposed for sometime in May or June at the Tijuana River Estuary center run by the California Resources Agency in Imperial Beach. Each council member and respective department/agency was advised to work on the development of new and existing cross-border programs and provide a list of such programs to Cal/EPA staff before the next meeting.

X. Public Comment

::: Heather Scott, representing the Speaker's office congratulated the council on their first meeting and conveyed the Speaker's appreciation of their efforts at improving cross-border relations.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chairwoman Adams at 4:35 PM.